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Dollars For Criminal Arms Kings

American arms firms have begun to pump hundreds of millions of dollars into the armaments industry of West Germany, the "New York Times" disclosed in a sensational dispatch from Bonn on October 14th.

The West German "merchants of death" who will get the money are almost exclusively firms with war criminal records.

Here are the main facts given in the "New York Times" dispatch:

"United States armaments manufacturers have begun to pour massive amounts of capital and technical experience into the reviving West German arms industry.

"The motive impelling a lengthening list of United States aircraft, electronics and machine-building companies to 'get into Germany' is the wide-spread conviction that the Bonn republic is destined to become a major weapons producer . . .

"The shape of the future was indicated a year ago when Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss announced that West Germany would make its own supply of United States-designed F-104 multi-purpose fighter aircraft . . .

"The bulk of the West German Air Force's F-104's — up to 300 — will be built on licence by Heinkel-Messerschnitt, a temporary combination of the companies that built Germany's World War II air fleet . . . As a consequence of Herr Strauss' decision, the industry will get a life-saving injection of capi-

(cont. on next page)

BISHOP'S BIRTHDAY GREETING

"Church Supports GDR Peace Policy"

The Reverend D. Moritz Mitzenheim, Evangelical Bishop of Thuringia, was amongst those who congratulated the German Democratic Republic on its tenth birthday. Speaking in Berlin on October 6th, the bishop said:

"When I speak to you as the oldest of the Evangelical bishops in the GDR, I should like to begin by thanking all those who have given their labours to help lead our people out of the depth of the catastrophe of 1945; those who have improved living conditions in our homeland; and those who by their work have made our state a respected factor in international life.

"I address these thanks both to the leading men of the state and the simple citizens in town and countryside who have worked for reconstruction and the maintenance of peace. I know that amongst those who have done their duty year in and year out are members of the Christian congregations and churches. The church does not want to praise itself for this: I am only mentioning this fact to dispel the illusion that those who follow the teaching of the Gospels must lead a life isolated from the great tasks of the age, or even that they are obliged, because of their religious convictions, to support a different order from that existing in the German Democratic Republic.

"The negotiations in the middle of 1958 between official representatives of the Evangelical Church in the GDR and representatives of the Government of the GDR on the situation of the churches and the Christians in the German Democratic Republic resulted in an important communique; this communique emphasised on the one hand that every citizen had the right to freedom of belief and freedom of conscience, and that the free practice of religion is protected by the Republic; on the other hand the representatives of the church in their way served the cause of peace between the peoples, and that therefore it agreed in principle with the work for peace done by the GDR and its government: that the Christians would fulfil their duties as citizens on the basis of legality: that they would respect the development in the direction of socialism: and that they would contribute to the peaceful construction of social life. We wish to abide by this. We Christians recognise the generous hand of God in every social order which forms the co-operation of mankind, and which opposes chaos; and we Christians give our thanks by doing our duty as the day may demand.

"May God protect our homeland and our people, and may he preserve peace and give us peace."

(cont. from front page)

tal likely to exceed $1,000,000,000 in the next six or seven years."

The "New York Times" dispatch then listed the US arms firms concerned, and the West German firms which they are now backing. They included the following:

Heinkel and **Messerschmitt** shares are being bought by Lockheed.

A substantial interest in **Bayrische Motorenwerke** has been acquired by General Electric Co.

Dornier is cooperating closely with the US firm Vertol Aircraft.

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All of the West German arms firms named above played leading parts in the equipment of Hitler's Wehrmacht, and made millions out of the war. All of them are on record as having exploited thousands of concentration camp prisoners, whom they employed as slave labourers.

A názi document produced at the Nuremberg trial of major war criminals under the number PS-1584(III) gives details of the number of slave labourers from concentration camps employed by these firms during January 1944.

The plane-building firm of Heinkel employed during that month the grand total of 9725 slave-labourers: 1721 women prisoners from Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, 5939 from Oranienburg Concentration Camp, and 2065 from Mauthausen Concentration Camp.

The firm of Messerschmitt employed 3580 concentration camp prisoners, all from Dacnau Camp.

The Bayrische Motorenwerke had demanded 12,000 slave workers from Dachau Camp to construct an underground plane factory, but the SS were only able to provide 3,434 slaves.

The Dornier plane firm was only able to get 60 slave workers in January 1944 of the 3000 which it had demanded.

"Vatican Solution" For West Berlin?

Deputy Prime Minister Makes New Suggestion

The existence of the independent Vatican City State in the heart of Italy shows that a solution of the West Berlin problem is possible, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic declared at a mass meeting in East Berlin on October 7th.

Walter Ulbricht stated:

"The talks between Prime Minister Khrushchov and President Eisenhower have helped to melt the ice of the cold war, and now it is time that the ice should melt in Berlin too. I should like to address the West Berliners frankly: You are living in the middle of the German Democratic Republic. We propose to you that you should see to it that hostile activity against the GDR in West Berlin is brought to an end, and we for our part declare that we have no intention of intervening in West Berlin ...

"The question is not really very complicated. There is the example of the Vatican City, which lies in the capital of Italy. The Vatican Statute, concluded between the Vatican and the Italian Government, lays down that the Vatican shall respect the laws of Italy, and that Italy guarantees the Vatican free access routes. It would not be possible to adopt this statute word for word, but it shows the possibility of solving a problem such as that presented by West Berlin."

Walter Ulbricht was speaking on the occasion of the 10th birthday celebrations of the German Democratic Republic. Delegations of leading statesmen from all the socialist countries and Iraq und Guinea travelled to Berlin to take part in the celebrations, which culminated in big open-air festivities in all parts of the Republic.

Birthday Honours

Workers, scientists, politicians and artists who have contributed greatly to the successes attained during the first 10 years of existence of the German Democratic Republic were awarded titles and prizes in connexion with the birthday celebrations.

The majority of the prizes, including the National Prize, the Banner of Labour and titles such as Labour Hero, were awarded to teams of scientists, technicians and workers who have done outstanding work in the industrial field.

Prizes awarded in the arts included National Prizes for Anna Seghers (author of "The Seventh Cross"); Stefan Heym (author of "The Crusaders"); Eduard von Winterstein (theatre veteran who has just celebrated his 70th stage anniversary); and the team of architects, sculptors, etc., responsible for the imposing memorial erected on the site of Buchenwald concentration camp.

Prizes for outstanding film work went to the teams responsible for the films "Stars" and "They Called Him Amigo", both of them timely reminders of the crimes committed by the nazis.

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Past, Present & Future in Democratic Germany

"We Live in Magdeburg's Morgen Strasse"

Morgen Strasse in the city of Magdeburg in Democratic Germany was a burned-out ruin when the war ended in 1945. It was just one of hundreds of streets in Magdeburg and other cities which had been wiped out in the war. Today it has been entirely rebuilt, and since October 1957 a total of 165 families have been living in the new and comfortable flats there. A few days ago a reporter from the East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" visited the street, and asked some of the people who live there to tell him how they had lived in 1949, when the German Democratic Republic was founded; how they live today, and what they look forward to for 1965, when the present Seven Year Plan will have been completed. On these pages we present their answers:

Werner Gellert — Train Driver

I won't forget those days ten years ago so quickly. I was a fireman on the Magdeburg-Rothensee Railway. I was often more than 32 hours at a time on the locomotive. I couldn't shovel as fast as the crumbly coal briquettes in the fire-bed burnt down. Jam sandwiches to eat, at home an unfriendly, cold furnished room and 350 marks a month were not exactly what I had always dreamed of. Of course, not everything was so miserable. 1949 was also the year I met my wife and my life began to improve considerably. And all doors stood open to a 23-year-old worker. I took advantage of the first good chance and went to a school for train engineers.

In October 1950 I took my test as engineer and, as a member of the Free German Youth, I was entrusted with a "Youth Locomotive" to drive. All of us working on the "Youth Locomotive" put our heads together to think of ways to drive more economically. By means of a so-called "dead" fire-bed we were able to save 10,345 marks. I was awarded the title of "Activist" on October 13th 1952.

Today I am still an engineer, it is true, but I feel quite differently when we race over the tracks. I feel freer and happier than ten years ago. Somehow I am proud of what we carry in the freight cars. We bring high-quality products to all the cities around. I earn 600 marks at present, and we would be lost without the wireless and TV sets in our sitting room.

By 1965 I expect to be head train engineer and the happy owner of a car.

Guenter Kubica - Technical Director

Our government has given me responsibilities at present which would have been unthinkable for me ten years ago. I have grown with the Republic. When I drive in my car every morning to the Western Auto Repair Plant or home to my family in the evening, I often feel life really is worth living here.

In 1949 I was 43 years old and a foreman in a car repair shop in Halberstadt earning 400 marks a month. Before we could start work we had to clear the rubble and search everywhere for machine parts. It was very difficult then, but by now we can see the proofs everywhere that it was worth it. I was head of the trade union group at the time — and often enough our union meetings dealt mostly with questions of food or of clothing rations. In the meantime the little works where we began with 15 people has become a regular plant with 160 employees.

Then I came to Magdeburg and got a job as technical director in the Western Auto Repair Plant — I am responsible for seeing that production runs smoothly from the technical point of view. That means a great deal of work, for there are seven different shops, and we are trying to modernise the out-of-date ones. Our workers and technicians are building a special smithy for springs, which will mean far fewer interruptions in the bus schedule. There is so much to tell about my interesting job — but you probably do not have so much room in your notebook.

Our flat shows you how things are for myself and my family. New, modern furniture and the TV set are our special pride. What will things be like for us during the next six years? I hope to remain healthy in order to keep up with all the big tasks we have ahead of us at the plant. And then, I would like to take a long trip with my family. I should like especially to visit Rumania or Bulgaria.

Else Burggraf — Civil Servant

In 1949 I was a salesgirl in the first nationally-owned HO store in Magdeburg. It certainly wasn't easy then to buy food and clothing for my 8-year-old son and my elderly mother with 225 marks a month. My husband did not come back from the war. We lived in a dark little 1½ room flat in the back yard of the Mittag Strasse. I can still recall quite well how the first time I got my salesgirl's salary I brought a bag full of pastry home, even though the plainest sorts cost 3. to 5 marks apiece.

There have certainly been many changes since then. I became head of my department, then a buyer for textiles, later manager of the store, and then I was selected as "Activist" and elected as deputy to the District Legislature. In 1958 I took a year's course at the German Academy of Government and Jurisprudence in Potsdam-Babelsberg for a year. Today I have a responsible post in the retail and wholesale trade department of the Magdeburg District Council.

I never forget that I was once a salesgirl. What I am and what I have today I owe not only to my own energy but to our workers' and peasants' government. Naturally, one's main wish for the future is for peace and that people like Adenauer and Strauss in West Germany will soon belong to the dark past.

Horst Springer — Policeman

If you want to see how life has treated me in the last ten years, just look at my waistline. I have really got quite tubby. In 1949 I weighed 132 lbs, today I weigh 203 lbs, and I somehow have the feeling that I will be getting even rounder in the years ahead. But joking aside, things have really improved for us.

In 1949 I lived with my wife and our 1-year-old Monika in two tiny cubby-holes with damp walls. I earned 250 marks a month as auto mechanic in the Magdeburg Tractor Works, which was privately owned. At the time, that was just enough to keep your head above water. But my wife and I used every opportunity to improve our lives. We always believed that the times would improve. I was convinced the programme of the government would mean a better life for my family. I wanted to do my bit, too, and I joined the Socialist Unity Party in the same year.

That was 10 years ago. Step for step we have become happier and better off. I joined the transportation police department and am now responsible driving instructor for the Magdeburg area. And my monthly salary of 535 marks is not only more cash money than the 250 marks of ten years ago, but we can buy relatively much more, because everything is much cheaper than it was. We moved into the new flat in Morgen Strasse in March 1958, and we don't have a single piece of furniture from 1949. All of it is new and modern.

I am no prophet, so I cannot predict in detail how things will be for us in 1965. But in view of developments in the republic I know that there will be a TV set here in the sitting-room and a refrigerator in the kitchen.

Rudolf Scheibe — Labourer

A garret with damp walls, three cots with straw sacks, a shaky table and two even shakier chairs, nails in the walls instead of a closet and three lads worn out from heavy farmwork — those are my memories of 1949. I worked with two other re-settlers (Germans resettled from western Poland, ed.) in the stables and on the fields of a farmer. We sweated from 4 : 00 a.m. till dark for our room, scanty meals and 60 marks a week. I grew up in orphanages and had never had it good, and I had always been modest in my demands. But I did want sometime to be able to live like a human being.

Look around my flat! Today, my family and I are living like humans. We have a pleasant modern home.

In 1949 I would not have dreamed of two rooms, a kitchen, a bath and a balcony. I worked 400 hours voluntarily in clearing Magdeburg of rubble and was therefore awarded the flat.

Today I am a labourer in the Thaelmann Engineering Works. I earn 480 marks, sometimes a bit more. My work isn't light, but I can see the results of it. What do I foresee for 1965? I hope for peace and that we will be producing better machinery than ever in the Thaelmann plant. That is important, because production will climb 26% by then. We also want to bring up our boy well — he will be 14 then. And our GDR gives us every chance to do it.

Wolfgang Krampe — Glazier

How were things for me in 1949? Just as they would be for any 8-year-old who is well-cared for by his mother and is kept busy at school, I guess. My mother and I were living in one little room in a village near Koethen. We had been evacuated there during the war, but that didn't disturb me. There had been so many new things to see in a village that I always had all I could do to see everything that was going on and occassionally to help out a bit.

In 1949 we moved to Magdeburg, and I went to school until 1956. I began my apprenticeship three years ago. They had asked me, "What would you like to be?" There were all kinds of possibilities, for every trade is open to young people in our republic. I figured that there would be lots of new buildings made of

steel, concrete and glass going up during the Five Year Plan, so I decided to learn the glazier's trade.

37 days before the Tenth Anniversary of the GDR I passed my journeyman's examination. It is nice to know that I could choose my own trade, that I always got every help from my teachers and from our government and to know that I will never be unemployed. I have also learned how good it is to work together with other people, and how much more one can accomplish. That is why I have applied to join the glaziers' production cooperative in Magdeburg.

I hope especially that two wishes will be fulfilled by 1965. I shall try very hard to get my master's certificate and I would like to have a car. And of course I may have got married.

Hannelore and Franz Konietschke Photolab technician and Truckdriver

The past ten years have brought us lots of luck — said Mrs Konietschke. This was not an accident: we took advantage of the opportunities offered everyohe here. I am not superstitious, but maybe the horseshoes which I punched and bored in 1949 in what is today the "Karl Liebknecht Heavy Machinery

Factory" were a good omen. I was working as a helper in the lathe shop, and there was more battered junk to clear up than there was raw material to work on. I earned 150 marks a month. Today when I look at our present flat I find it hard to imagine how we managed in those days with six people in two rooms. You see how quickly one forgets the bad times when one's life has got better.

We got married in 1952. My husband worked in the fire brigade of a factory in Webau, not far away. We possessed all in all just 150 marks. No-one could imagine that today; to have a wedding and start family life with 150 marks. The fact that we managed everything as well as we did is certainly due in large part to the fact that we live in the GDR. Though a woman, I was able to get

ahead and learn the trade of technician in a photolaboratory. My husband became a truck driver. We both work for the College of Heavy Machine Construction in Magdeburg. My husband takes home 450 marks and I 375 marks a month.

I would like to add something to your notes on how things are for us at present, Mr Konietschke added. We spent our vacation this past summer with our motor scooter on the Baltic Seacoast and we have a TV set. By 1965 we hope that there will be a car in front of the door and not two but three Konietschkes in our pleasant flat.

Hannelore Krahmer — Housewife

When one is seventeen, the whole world seems quite rosy. That was the way it was with me ten years ago. The terrible war was over. I lived with my parents at the time in another part of the city. We helped to build a new Magdeburg from the ruins. Of course, even as an apprentice in the insurance business in 1949 I used to dream about marriage, a family and bringing up children. I hoped especially to have a nice flat where I could arrange things just as I wanted.

Today I have just such a flat, here at 21 Morgen Strasse, with two rooms, kitchen, bath, balcony and lots of sun. My husband works as a plumber in the Central German Assembly Plant and earns 500 to 600 marks a month. We have a motorcycle. Our little daughter Angelika goes to school already and is a real joy to both of us. But somehow I do not feel completely satisfied.

I have done a lot of thinking about what it is that is missing. Now I finally know; being a housewife just isn't enough. Of course, it is nice enough in a way to dust and clean in rooms which are modern and well-furnished, to prepare meals for the family and to be a good mother for my daughter. But this daily cleaning routine, the unchanging schedule, are beginning to depress me. I want to go out to work again.

A few years ago I was a salesgirl in a HO (nationally-owned) store. It was fun to be able to offer the customers better and better goods all the time. It must be nice nowadays to sell fine Dederon garments (like nylon) and things like that. Or on the other hand to make a big fuss if some garment factory delivers bad-quality merchandise. I want not only to care for my own family, but to have a say in bigger things which are of interest to all the people of Magdeburg. Before Christmas I shall be standing behind a shop-

counter again in an HO store — I am already quite certain of that.

By 1965 we shall have bought a TV set. And Angelika may well have a little brother or sister by then.

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790 people live in the Morgen Strasse. 159 of them are children and do not remember the year 1949, but most of the others would tell similar stories of the hardships of ten years ago and the progress they have made since then. Many have learnt new trades; all have found economic security. Their plans for the future often centre on TV sets, cars and the like, but the street as a whole also has plans. The people living there are now planning a large children's play area, to include a skating rink, a volleyball court, gymnastic equipment and, of course, swings and a see-saw.

Another addition will be a large medical clinic just off Morgen Strasse. These projects are typical for Magdeburg, which has built or repaired 42,000 flats since 1949 and is planning a further 15,000 new flats by 1965 — plus dozens of new schools, shops, a department store and all the other requisites of an old city made new.

SS MEN RUN W. GERMAN POLICE

The detective forces in many of the key centres of West Germany are today commanded by former SS officers, the Social Democratic Press Service disclosed on October 10th.

The press service stated that there was a particularly high concentration of SS officers in the police force of North Rhine Westphalia, West Germany's most populous province, which includes the vital Ruhr area. "Former high SS officers command the detective forces in Aachen, Bonn, Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Cologne, Moenchen-Gladbach and Muelheim-Ruhr; the police director in the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine Westphalia, who is responsible for all detective forces, was himself an SS Major and worked in the Reich Security H. Q." the press service stated.

On October 9th the "Welt der Arbeit", organ of the West German Trade Union Federation, reported that journalists had asked Dr Sporrer, head of the provincial police personnel department, how it came about that so many SS officers had been re-engaged. "Dr Sporrer complained that only the police in North Rhine Westphalia were being attacked: he knew that more prominent SS men who had been concerned in shootings and other crimes were employed in the Federal Police office and the Bonn Security Group, and nobody worried about them", the paper reported.

The "Welt der Arbeit" stated that present investigations showed that at least 200 former SS officers and Gestapo officials were working in the police in North Rhine Westphalia, and that many of them had been promoted to key posts in the past few weeks.

Here are biographical details on some of the leading police officials involved in this scandal:

Fritz Weber, today police director in the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine Westphalia, responsible for all detective forces in the province. During the nazi period he was SS Major and worked in the Reich Security H. Q. When he applied for membership in the SS in 1937 he submitted a written autobiography which stated: "On the day after the Umbruch (Hitler's appointment as Chancellor, ed.), I was transferred to the Political Police, and was head of the SS Auxiliary Police and the Protective Arrest Centre. I was attached for one year to the staff of SS General Daluege". SS General Daluege was hanged in 1946 for war crimes.

Dr Josef Menke, today head of the detective section of the Dortmund police. On October 1st 1939 Dr Menke applied for membership in the SS, and supplied the following autobiographical details: "I joined the Nazi Party on May 1st 1933. On July 1st 1933 I joined the SA and attended an SA training course in the SA School Bewerungen from May 27th to July 7th 1934; at the end of the course I was promoted SA Sergeant. On June 15th 1936 I was appointed Detective Commissar, and on August 24th 1936 appointed to my post in the Reich Security H. Q.". He was accepted as member no. 351,096 of the SS, and reached the rank of major in the organisation.

Dr Eweler, today head of the detective section of the Essen police. He worked as SS Major in the Reich Security H. Q. He was a member of the Nazi Party, Brown House Section, Reich Leadership Party Group.

Dr Fritz Keunecke, today deputy head of the detective section of the Essen police. Formerly SS Lieutenant in Reich Security H. Q.

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The renazification of the police leadership in North Rhine Westphalia has reached such scandalous proportions that even the conservative police trade union organisation has been forced to protest against the fact that "former SS and Gestapo officials dominate the detective police in North Rhine Westphalia".

What the International Tribunal at Nuremberg Said About the SS

"The SS was utilised for purposes which were criminal under the Charter, involving the persecution and extermination of the Jews, brutalities and killings in concentration camps ... The Tribunal declares to be criminal the group composed of those persons who were officially accepted as members of the SS ... who became or remained members of the organisation with knowledge that it was being used for the commission of acts declared criminal by Article 6 of the Charter ..."

Nuremberg Verdict, September 30th 1946

What the Potsdam Agreement Said

"The SS ... shall be completely and finally abolished ... All members of the Nazi Party who have been more than nominal participants in its activities ... shall be removed from public and semi-public office."

The Case of the Murderous Minister (Cont.)

Influential West German papers have demanded a clarification of the case of Professor Theodor Oberlaender, Refugee Minister in the West German Government.

Various newspapers in West Germany and other countries have in recent weeks charged that Professor Oberlaender, an old nazi, was directly implicated in the mass murders committed by German-commanded quisling troops in the Ukrainian city of Lvov during the first few weeks of the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Details of the charges were given in GERMAN REPORT dated October 9th.

Referring to these charges, the official West German Social Democratic organ "Vorwaerts" stated on October 9th:

"It is clear that Oberlaender was a dyed-in-the-wool member of the Nazi Party, an influential eastern expert of the nazi regime, and that he was involved in the psychological preparation for the attacks on Poland and the Soviet Union. Let us see what Oberlaender had to say in the Handbook of the Federal Parliament for 1953 about his fate after he had been dismissed from the Wehrmacht. He stated: "1943 — ban on scientific university lectures". But in the Parliamentary Handbook for 1957 we read: "1943 — condemned to death for political reasons". The fact that Professor Oberlaender did not mention this fact, so important for his democratic reputation, four years earlier, makes it appear advisable to accept with caution the other claims he makes about his political past ...

"Even if the charges against Oberlaender should prove to be baseless,

the question remains as to whether such a man . . . is acceptable as leading representative of our political system."

The "Neue Rhein Zeitung" of Dusseldorf stated on October 7th:

"There is a new scandal in Bonn, the case of Refugee Minister Oberlaender, a case which is worrying observers in Washington, London and Paris just as it is worrying Social Democrats in Bonn . . . The charges made against him are so important that a Minister cannot answer them simply by reading quotations from his war diary. Public opinion both in Germany and abroad has the right to know whether these charges are true. The minister of a democratic state cannot simply shrug off such charges by saying they are 'lying Bolshevist propaganda'."

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On October 15th a mysterious new angle cropped up in the case. Stefan Bandera, notorious Ukrainian quisling, "fell downstairs" in his house in Munich, West Germany, and broke his neck. Subsequent police investigations showed that he had been poisoned with potassium cyanide. East German newspapers suggested that Minister Oberlaender may have had a hand in Bandera's death, since Bandera had served as an officer in the Ukrainian quisling unit of the Wehrmacht of which Oberlaender was second-in-command, and thus had undoubted first-hand evidence of Oberlaender's role in the mass murders committed in the city of Lvov in July 1941 by this unit.

"E. Germany Going Concern" — N. Y. Times

The German Democratic Republic is a going concern, and there is no evidence of unrest there. These are two of the main conclusions reached by "New York Times" star reporter Sydney Gruson after a recent trip through the Republic. Here are some of the main points from his report, published in the European edition of the "New York Times" on October 13th:

BERLIN, Oct. 11 — East Germany has the look of a going concern.

If there is no evidence of great enthusiasm except among the party faithful for the way of life imposed by communism, neither is there any evidence of the unrest that Washington and London speculate about or predict from time to time.

If there is no elegance and little luxury in living in East Germany now, neither is there any serious want. Even more important, the shops have finally begun to reflect some of the promises of elegance and luxury to come. . . .

That the state is in business to stay seems only too evident to this visitor after a five-day automobile trip. The face of that part of Germany taken over by the Communists is being rapidly transformed into an industrial nation of significant scale.

This is the main picture taken away from the trip. But there are smaller snaphots that linger. . . .

There was the earnest young Communist saying above the buzz of restaurant chatter in East Berlin that "women in our country are not interested in fashions and make-up; we have a new Socialist woman who studies science and culture."

There was the loud scoffing laugh of the young girl who was told what he said. And the horrified look of the newly arrived Italian Communist newsman who, thoroughly alarmed, asked, "They haven't really changed women here, have they?" . . .

There were the lovely, long Baltic beaches, cool under the autumn sun with the same atmosphere of spent pleasure as any beach at summer's end.

But there was also the great complex known as Schwarze Pumpe, largest lignite mining and processing installation in the world.

It is situated about ninety miles south of Berlin in the heart of the Lower Lusatian coal fields. The operation is based on a process that is said to yield metallurgical coke, a transformation of lignite that was formerly impossible.

An entire city, housing 20,000 workers, is to be built around the installation, which got its name, meaning "black pump," from a tavern near by.

Schwarze Pumpe is not only a symbol but also a pillar of the country's industrialization. In terms of production, the East Germans now rate themselves as the fifth industrial power of Europe. By 1965 they hope to double industrial power with no increase in labor force.

The Soviet Union proclaims the goal of surpassing the United States in production. East Germany has as its goal the surpassing of West Germany's per capita production and consumption of essential foodstuffs and consumer goods by 1961. . . .

It is not so much the shop windows where the bread and a little cake are being displayed as the industrial accomplishments that are impressive.

Schwarze Pumpe is one. Another is Rostock, where a modern shipyard and deep-sea port have been built from scratch.

During the war 20,000 workers turned out Heinkel bombers there. What Allied bombing fleets left intact in the huge sheds the Soviet Union took away as reparations. Rostock was 60 per cent destroyed and skilled airplane workers had long since dispersed when the Communists decided to create a shipbuilding industry along ten miles of Baltic coast between Rostock and Warnemunde.

They had troubles at first, they admit. But now the eleventh 10,000-ton ship is in dock along with the eighth 7,000-tonner and cost in man-hours per ton has dropped to the world level of ninety-six hours from an initial 148 hours.

The full capacity of the Rostock-Warnemunde yards, which have so far absorbed an investment of $40,000,000, and the capacity of four other yards built or expanded along the coast have been booked until 1965 with orders for East Germany's own expanding fleet and for the Soviet Union.

This reporter was accompanied on the trip by a guide, a member of the ruling Socialist Unity (Communist) party. But the guide made no effort to prevent the visitor from going off to talk with people alone.

Many of the people interviewed grumbled — about the lack of freedom, about the system, about the lack of luxuries, about the incessant propaganda. But all thought that life was far better now than two or three years ago, that the police were less ubiquitous and less prying and that there was no mood or wish for rebellion in the land.

These talks also uncovered a surprising amount of support for many of the Communists' ways. Young people spoke enthusiastically of the chance they were getting for a free education and added, in many cases, that the compulsory study of Marxism-Leninism was worth it.

Older people thought they were better off than West Germans on health services and on pensions . . .

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

How crazy can you get? I don't mean you, respected reader, I mean those types over there in West Germany. In the second week in October ruling circles in West Germany made a strong bid for the world championship in this field. Let us look at the example of the big International Book Fair in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. Publishers from almost every country in the world sent their books to the fair, and as is usual at an international fair the goods were shown in separate sections marked with the name of the country concerned. The sections were marked with the name: United Kingdom, France, Mongolian People's Republic, USSR, and so on.

But one large stand had to pack up and go home before the fair ended, because it was not allowed to show its name plate. As you may have guessed, it was the stand of the German Democratic Republic.

When negotiations were in progress for the allocation of space for the Book Fair, the publishers of the German Democratic Republic signed an agreement with the fair organisers that their books should be shown in the normal and proper way under the name of the state in which they were printed. But when the fair was just about to open some blinkered ass from Bonn went raving into the office of the fair organisers waving his arms and foaming at the mouth screaming "The German Democratic Republic does not exist" (he had apparently forgotten that for three months this summer official representatives of the German Democratic Republic and West Germany sat with the Big Four round one table in Geneva to discuss the German problem). The fair organisers got cold feet, and ordered the removal of the name plate. The publishers of the German Democratic Republic produced their written contract and went to court. The Tenth Civil Court in Frankfurt, to its honour, administered the law in a fit and proper way, and issued an injunction forbidding the fair organisers to remove the name plate. This drove the blind man from Bonn into an ecstasy of fury, and he brought pressure to bear on a higher court, the Frankfurt Provincial Court, to cancel the injunction, and the name plate came down. The court ruled that the books from the German Democratic Republic should be shown under the odd title "Books from Inner-German Trade".

Since the publishers of the German Democratic Republic did not feel they came from a place called "Inner-German Trade", they reluctantly packed their thousands of volumes and went home.

The whole thing would be delightfully Alice-in-Wonderland if it were not for the serious background. More and more countries in all parts of the world are recognising the fact of the existence of the German Democratic Republic as a going concern: but the West German authorities continue to pretend that it is not there, despite the fact that it is the fifth most important industrial state of Europe.

And if you have a long memory you may remember that this Nelson-blind-eye tactic was part of Hitler's stock in trade. He wanted to annex Austria, so he declared it did not really exist: and he played the same trick with Czechoslovakia.

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Now I should like to turn to an interesting but perhaps rather lopsided article in the "Times", London, on October 8th.

The article opened with a rather un-Timeslike bang with the following words:

"'What this country needs is Woolworths'. The remark, amounting almost to a demand, was made in one of those grey office blocks in east Berlin in which the foreign Correspondent, if he succeeds in passing the guards, can feel he is at least on the fringe of the party apparatus. All round the large room were oversize pictures of the steelworks, coal mines and agricultural machinery — the usual evidence produced to show that Communism works. They were meant to impress, but the east German was decidedly unimpressed; he wanted pins, knick-knacks, and the many things taken for granted in the west ... For the political observer this recognition of the social and economic importance of Woolworths indicates an important stage in the economic development of east Germany ... Progress has been made, and the regime can now give more attention to consumer goods of all kinds. And well it may: lignite and chemical production can impress, and they are no doubt the basis of material prosperity, but, if the slogan "peace, prosperity and happiness" is to have some meaning, there must be a good supply of pins, plastic kitchen utensils, nails, and all the many things Herr Ulbricht now recognises as necessary ... The Communist world may have good ballet, opera and Brecht, but it does not know how to make a pretty girl prettier, or how to reduce the drudgery of housekeeping and shopping."

Now if I wanted to carp I could stick a pin or two into some details of this quotation from the "Times", such as the semantically interesting use of the phrases "grey office blocks" and "if he succeeds in passing the guards". It is many years since I visited the "Times" office in London's Printing House Square, but I have a vague idea that that office block too is a dreary shade of greyish-brown, and that I had to state my business in some detail before getting past the "guards" (porters or doormen to you) and being allowed into the building.

But let that pass, because the anonymous "Times" correspondent has in fact put his finger on one of the biggest problems today facing the German Democratic Republic, and other socialist countries.

I don't mean that the socialist countries have so far done nothing to "make a pretty girl prettier, or reduce the drudgery of housekeeping and shopping", but they have had more basic problems to deal with first, like getting an efficient heavy industry going, and providing a decent basic standard of living for all.

Now these basic tasks have been pretty well completed in many of the socialist countries, including Democratic Germany, there comes the new and complicated task not just of producing shoes, but of producing fashionable shoes, and getting them into the shops quickly enough to satisfy the customers.

Putting it in another way, the problems of running socialist industry and agriculture have been pretty well licked; the problems of socialist merchandising are now calling for solution. A lot has already been done in this field in Democratic Germany, and in future issues of GERMAN REPORT we hope to tell you more about new developments in this field. The GDR may need a socialist sort of Woolworths, but the emphasis is going to be on the word "socialist". There are not going to be hundreds of millions in profits going to a much-married heiress; the profits will go to everyone.

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